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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/728,020	12/01/2000	Richard G. Ogier	SRI/4297-2	6111

52197 7590 02/22/2006

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EXAMINER	
CHOUDHURY, AZIZUL Q	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2145	

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/728,020	OGIER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Azizul Choudhury	2145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *22 November 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *08 August 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Action

This office action is in response to the correspondence received on November 22, 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta et al ("An Adaptive Protocol for Reliable Multicast in Mobile Multi-hop Radio Networks," (IEEE, 1999)) in view of Brady et al (US Pat No: US005303207A), hereafter referred to as Gupta and Brady, respectively.

1. With regards to claim 1, Gupta teaches through Brady a multi-hop network including a plurality of nodes that each maintains a table of network topology, a method for disseminating topology and link-state information over the multi-hop network, comprising: maintaining a path tree for each source node in the network that can produce an update message, each path tree having that source node as a root node, a parent node, and zero or more children nodes; receiving an update message from the parent node in accordance with the path tree maintained for the source node that originated the received update message, the update message including information related to a link in the network; and forwarding the update message to children nodes, if

any, in accordance with the path tree maintained for the source node that originated the update message in response to the information in the received update message, if it is determined that the update message should be forwarded to the zero or more children nodes, such that topology information for the network is globally updated across the plurality of nodes

(Gupta discloses a design that performs a multi-hop through a network topology with nodes as claimed (section 2, first paragraph). In addition, Gupta's design also contains trees with nodes as claimed (section 3.1 & 3.1.1). The disclosure teaches of source nodes, core nodes and children nodes. The core node sends out acknowledgement messages to the children node to discover which children nodes exist and thus establishes which paths/links are present. Using this path/link presence information, the design is able to send data to the children who replied to the acknowledgement message, since they are the nodes that are known to be present. Plus, Gupta also discloses that a node is able to receive a message and is able to forward the message down the tree to the children nodes (section 3.5). However, Gupta does not specifically recite the existence of tables within the nodes for the storage of topology information.

In the same field of endeavor, Brady teaches a local area network design. Within the design, Brady teaches how within a network, nodes are able to have tables to store network topology information. The information within the tables is updatable (column 8, lines 20-33, Brady).

It would therefore have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to have combined Gupta's multi-hop network with the network node tables of Brady's design, to generate a corresponding successor list for nodes (column 8, lines 20-24, Brady)).

2. With regards to claim 2, Gupta teaches through Brady a method wherein the information related to the link indicates whether the update message is to be forwarded to other nodes (Acknowledgement means are present within Gupta's design (section 3.1.1, second paragraph). However, Gupta does not specifically recite the existence of tables within the nodes for the storage of topology information.

In the same field of endeavor, Brady teaches a local area network design. Within the design, Brady teaches how within a network, nodes are able to have tables to store network topology information. The information within the tables is updatable (column 8, lines 20-33, Brady).

It would therefore have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to have combined Gupta's multi-hop network with the network node tables of Brady's design, to generate a corresponding successor list for nodes (column 8, lines 20-24, Brady)).

3. With regards to claim 3, Gupta teaches through Brady a method wherein the path tree associated with each source node is a minimum-hop-path tree (Gupta's design

uses a multi-hop method (section 2, first paragraph) in a network with trees (section 3.1 and 3.1.1). One of the benefits of tree architecture is the ability for finding the fastest/minimum path. However, Gupta does not specifically recite the existence of tables within the nodes for the storage of topology information.

In the same field of endeavor, Brady teaches a local area network design. Within the design, Brady teaches how within a network, nodes are able to have tables to store network topology information. The information within the tables is updatable (column 8, lines 20-33, Brady).

It would therefore have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to have combined Gupta's multi-hop network with the network node tables of Brady's design, to generate a corresponding successor list for nodes (column 8, lines 20-24, Brady)).

4. With regards to claim 4, Gupta teaches through Brady a method further comprising obtaining link-state information from one or more nodes in the path tree maintained for a given source node for use in developing the path tree to that source node (Acknowledgement means are present within Gupta's design (section 3.1.1, second paragraph). However, Gupta does not specifically recite the existence of tables within the nodes for the storage of topology information.

In the same field of endeavor, Brady teaches a local area network design. Within the design, Brady teaches how within a network, nodes are able to have tables to store

network topology information. The information within the tables is updatable (column 8, lines 20-33, Brady).

It would therefore have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to have combined Gupta's multi-hop network with the network node tables of Brady's design, to generate a corresponding successor list for nodes (column 8, lines 20-24, Brady)).

5. With regards to claim 5, Gupta teaches through Brady a method wherein the link is a wireless communication link (The network in Gupta's design is mobile and hence wireless (section 2, first paragraph). However, Gupta does not specifically recite the existence of tables within the nodes for the storage of topology information.

In the same field of endeavor, Brady teaches a local area network design. Within the design, Brady teaches how within a network, nodes are able to have tables to store network topology information. The information within the tables is updatable (column 8, lines 20-33, Brady).

It would therefore have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to have combined Gupta's multi-hop network with the network node tables of Brady's design, to generate a corresponding successor list for nodes (column 8, lines 20-24, Brady)).

6. With regards to claim 6, Gupta teaches through Brady a method further comprising sending a new parent message to a node selecting that node as a new

parent node for the source node originating the update message (Tree architectures allow for changes to node layouts to occur, which means that parents may become children and children may become parents. Gupta suggests within the disclosure that such means are also present in his design (section 3.1.1). However, Gupta does not specifically recite the existence of tables within the nodes for the storage of topology information.

In the same field of endeavor, Brady teaches a local area network design. Within the design, Brady teaches how within a network, nodes are able to have tables to store network topology information. The information within the tables is updatable (column 8, lines 20-33, Brady).

It would therefore have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to have combined Gupta's multi-hop network with the network node tables of Brady's design, to generate a corresponding successor list for nodes (column 8, lines 20-24, Brady)).

7. With regards to claim 7, Gupta teaches through Brady a method further comprising receiving from the new parent node in response to the new parent message link-state information associated with the source node that originated the update message (Messages are able to be transferred between all the nodes of Gupta's design (section 3.1 and 3.1.1). In addition, as stated above, the layout of the nodes is allowed to change. However, Gupta does not specifically recite the existence of tables within the nodes for the storage of topology information.

In the same field of endeavor, Brady teaches a local area network design. Within the design, Brady teaches how within a network, nodes are able to have tables to store network topology information. The information within the tables is updatable (column 8, lines 20-33, Brady).

It would therefore have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to have combined Gupta's multi-hop network with the network node tables of Brady's design, to generate a corresponding successor list for nodes (column 8, lines 20-24, Brady)).

8. With regards to claim 8, Gupta teaches through Brady a method wherein the new parent message included a serial number and the link-state information received in response to the new parent message is associated with update messages having serial numbers that are greater than the serial number included in the new parent message (One of the major purposes of the multi-hop network design is to obtain the status of the network. In addition, sequence numbers are provided (section 3.1.1). However, Gupta does not specifically recite the existence of tables within the nodes for the storage of topology information.

In the same field of endeavor, Brady teaches a local area network design. Within the design, Brady teaches how within a network, nodes are able to have tables to store network topology information. The information within the tables is updatable (column 8, lines 20-33, Brady).

It would therefore have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to have combined Gupta's multi-hop network with the network node tables of Brady's design, to generate a corresponding successor list for nodes (column 8, lines 20-24, Brady)).

9. With regards to claim 9, Gupta teaches through Brady a method further comprising: determining that a path through a new parent node for the source node originating the update message has the same number of node hops as the path through the current parent node, and maintaining the current parent node as the parent node for the given source node (Another incentive of the tree architecture is that messages are able to record which nodes were visited (section 2). However, Gupta does not specifically recite the existence of tables within the nodes for the storage of topology information.

In the same field of endeavor, Brady teaches a local area network design. Within the design, Brady teaches how within a network, nodes are able to have tables to store network topology information. The information within the tables is updatable (column 8, lines 20-33, Brady).

It would therefore have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to have combined Gupta's multi-hop network with the network node tables of Brady's design, to generate a corresponding successor list for nodes (column 8, lines 20-24, Brady)).

10. With regards to claim 10, Gupta teaches through Brady a method further comprising: determining that a path to the source node originating the update message ceases to exist; and maintaining the current parent node as the parent node for the source node (In tree network architectures, data is able to route itself by looking ahead to see if a path is available. In addition, Gupta suggests that data is able to route itself (section 2). However, Gupta does not specifically recite the existence of tables within the nodes for the storage of topology information.

In the same field of endeavor, Brady teaches a local area network design. Within the design, Brady teaches how within a network, nodes are able to have tables to store network topology information. The information within the tables is updatable (column 8, lines 20-33, Brady).

It would therefore have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to have combined Gupta's multi-hop network with the network node tables of Brady's design, to generate a corresponding successor list for nodes (column 8, lines 20-24, Brady)).

11. With regards to claim 11, Gupta teaches through Brady a method further comprising: broadcasting the update message to the children nodes if the number of children nodes exceeds a predefined threshold when forwarding the update message to children nodes (Gupta's design allows for topology to be monitored and updated constantly (section 2). This feature along with the node status monitoring feature suggests that means are present for notifying the presence of too many nodes.

However, Gupta does not specifically recite the existence of tables within the nodes for the storage of topology information.

In the same field of endeavor, Brady teaches a local area network design. Within the design, Brady teaches how within a network, nodes are able to have tables to store network topology information. The information within the tables is updatable (column 8, lines 20-33, Brady).

It would therefore have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to have combined Gupta's multi-hop network with the network node tables of Brady's design, to generate a corresponding successor list for nodes (column 8, lines 20-24, Brady)).

12. With regards to claim 12, Gupta teaches through Brady a method further comprising transmitting the update message to each child node using a unicast mode if the number of children nodes is less than a predefined threshold when forwarding the update message to children nodes (Gupta's design allows for messages to be transmitted by unicast as needed (section 2). However, Gupta does not specifically recite the existence of tables within the nodes for the storage of topology information.

In the same field of endeavor, Brady teaches a local area network design. Within the design, Brady teaches how within a network, nodes are able to have tables to store network topology information. The information within the tables is updatable (column 8, lines 20-33, Brady).

It would therefore have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to have combined Gupta's multi-hop network with the network node tables of Brady's design, to generate a corresponding successor list for nodes (column 8, lines 20-24, Brady)).

13. With regards to claim 13, Gupta teaches through Brady a method further comprising: computing a parent node for each neighbor node and source node; and determining which neighbor nodes are children nodes for a given source node (For a tree network architecture to function properly, means must be present by which to detect the parent node and which are the children nodes. Gupta's design allows for the data structures within the nodes to identify themselves accordingly (section 3.2). However, Gupta does not specifically recite the existence of tables within the nodes for the storage of topology information.

In the same field of endeavor, Brady teaches a local area network design. Within the design, Brady teaches how within a network, nodes are able to have tables to store network topology information. The information within the tables is updatable (column 8, lines 20-33, Brady).

It would therefore have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to have combined Gupta's multi-hop network with the network node tables of Brady's design, to generate a corresponding successor list for nodes (column 8, lines 20-24, Brady)).

14. With regards to claim 14, Gupta teaches through Brady a network, comprising: a plurality of nodes in communication with each other over communication links, each node maintaining a path tree for each source node in the network that can produce an update message, each path tree having that source node as a root node, a parent node, and zero or more children nodes, wherein one of the nodes (i) receives an update message from the parent node in accordance with the path tree maintained for the source node that originated the received update message, the update message including information related to a link in the network, (ii) and forwards the update message to children nodes, if any, in accordance with the path tree maintained for the source node that originated the update message in response to the information in the received update message, if it is determined that the update message should be forwarded to the children nodes (Gupta discloses a design that performs a multi-hop through a network topology with nodes as claimed (section 2, first paragraph). In addition, Gupta's design also contains trees with nodes as claimed (section 3.1 & 3.1.1). The disclosure teaches of source nodes, core nodes and children nodes. The core node sends out acknowledgement messages to the children node to discover which children nodes exist and thus establishes which paths/links are present. Using this path/link presence information, the design is able to send data to the children who replied to the acknowledgement message, since they are the nodes that are known to be present. Plus, Gupta also discloses that a node is able to receive a message and is able to forward the message down the tree to the children nodes (section 3.5).

However, Gupta does not specifically recite the existence of tables within the nodes for the storage of topology information.

In the same field of endeavor, Brady teaches a local area network design. Within the design, Brady teaches how within a network, nodes are able to have tables to store network topology information. The information within the tables is updatable (column 8, lines 20-33, Brady).

It would therefore have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to have combined Gupta's multi-hop network with the network node tables of Brady's design, to generate a corresponding successor list for nodes (column 8, lines 20-24, Brady)).

Response to Remarks

The amendment received on November 22, 2005 has been carefully examined but is not deemed fully persuasive. The newly amended claims feature traits which were not taught by the Gupta prior art. This was also expressed within the remarks portion of the amendment. A new search was conducted and the Brady art was discovered to teach the newly claimed trait within the same field of endeavor, prior to the claimed invention. The newly revised office action details how the Gupta and Brady arts teach the features of the claimed invention.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Azizul Choudhury whose telephone number is (571) 272-3909. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AC

JASON CARDONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER